

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been reorganized to improve readability, with no change in scope intended. Claim 9 has been amended to address the alleged indefiniteness. The objection to the drawings and the rejections on art are respectfully traversed for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 8-12 are currently under consideration. Independent Claim 8, the sole independent claim under consideration, stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the Kayser patent (US 3,138,942 and separately in view of the Mangiavacchi patent (US 4,710,150). A principal point at issue in these rejections is whether the cited references teach an interference fit of their disclosed needle bearings rollers. They do not.

As noted in Applicants previous Amendment, "interference fit" is a term of art that refers to a fitting which requires force to assemble the components (e.g., a press fit), and in which pressure is exerted between the fitted components once assembly is effected. Viewed another way, an interference fit may be considered as involving the insertion of a male part into a female part with pressure due to a difference in size between

the male and female parts. As a result, there is pressure between the fitted parts.

The outstanding rejections of Claim 8 do not reflect a proper understanding of what constitutes an interference fit. This is also evident in the objection to the drawings, since the state of interference between the fitted parts results from pressure that would not be seen in any reasonable drawing of the assembled parts.

It will be appreciated from the foregoing that a mere abutment of parts, as is shown in the Kayser and Mangiavacchi patents, does not constitute an interference fit. Nor does either reference make any mention of an interference fit of the needle bearings rollers. In contrast, Applicants drawings are accompanied by an explicit disclosure of, and an explicit quantification of, interference. The Office's contention that the cited patent drawings "show" an interference fit to the same extent that Applicant shows such a fit in Fig. 10 is misplaced. As noted in the discussion above, to appreciate the state of interference, the drawings must be considered in conjunction with the disclosure. And, in this light, it is clear that neither of the Kayser and Mangiavacchi patents discloses, either explicitly or inherently, an interference fit of the needle bearing rollers.

The Applicant herein has further noted that, in the state of the art in cross joints, the needles are not interference fitted to the trunnion. The present invention, which employs interference fitting, thus constitutes a significant departure from the state of the art with advantages as discussed in the instant application.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejections of Claim 8 are untenable and should be withdrawn. Moreover, the secondary references cited in connection with the dependent claims are not seen to overcome the above-discussed deficiencies of the Kayser and Mangiavacchi patents relative to Claim 8.

Likewise, the objection to the drawings is unfounded as discussed above and should also be withdrawn.

An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

September 13, 2004

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